

FECN11 CWIS 051800

THIRTY DAY FORECAST FOR THE GREAT LAKES FOR APRIL ISSUED JOINTLY BY
THE CANADIAN ICE SERVICE OF ENVIRONMENT CANADA AND THE U.S.
NATIONAL ICE CENTER OF THE UNITED STATES ON 05 APRIL 2004.

Lake Superior

Above normal temperatures prevailed over the eastern portion of the Lake Superior with near normal for the rest of the lake during the last half of March. The current ice situation is about 4 days to one week earlier than normal in terms of break-up.

Forecast ice conditions from April 5th to April 15th.

Temperatures will be near to below normal for the first half of April.

1. Thunder Bay – The consolidated ice in the northeastern portion of the bay will continue to decrease during the period. Only the extreme northeastern section will have consolidated ice. The rest of the bay will have mostly open water with some patches of thick lake ice by mid-month.
2. Nipigon and Black Bays – Only some ice fracture will occur near the entrance to the bays.
3. Apostle Island and Chequamegon Bay – Remaining consolidated ice will fracture during the first week of April. All the ice will be completely melted before the middle of the month.
4. Keweenaw Bay – Thick lake ice will be melted completely during the first week of April.
5. Grand Island – Consolidated ice will fracture during the first week of the month and become open water by mid-month.
6. Whitefish Bay – Consolidated ice along the eastern and southern shore of Whitefish Bay will be completely fractured during the second week of April. Concentrations of thick and medium lake ice will decrease to open drift while most of the northwestern portion of the bay will be open water by mid-April.
7. From Whitefish Bay to Michipicoten Bay – Medium and thick lake ice will completely melt by the second week of April.
8. Elsewhere in Lake Superior – Open water to ice free.

Forecast ice conditions from April 16th to April 30th.

Temperatures will be above normal over the entire area.

1. Thunder Bay – The last bit of consolidated ice will be fractured and melted during the third week of April. Open water will cover the entire bay by the fourth week.
2. Nipigon and Black Bays – Consolidated ice will gradually fracture during third week of April. By the end of the month, close to very close pack thick lake ice will be located in the northern reaches of the bays with mostly open water in the remainder of the bays.
3. Whitefish Bay – A significant portion of the ice will be melted during the third week of April except for some patches along the eastern shore of the bay. By the end of the month, mainly open water conditions will prevail.
4. Elsewhere in Lake Superior – Open water to ice free.

Lake Huron and Georgian Bay

Temperatures were above normal during the last half of March. Ice extent was near normal.

Forecast ice conditions from April 5th to April 15th.

Temperatures will be near to below normal for the first half of April over the area.

1. North Channel – Some ice melt will occur between Cockburn and Drummond Islands during the first week of April. By the middle of April, the western portion of the channel will fracture.
2. St Mary's River – Open water areas will continue to expand in the St Mary's River. By mid-month the entire river will be fractured with generally very open drift to open drift ice concentration.
3. Northwestern Lake Huron near the Straits of Mackinac – The remaining patch of consolidated ice between Bois Blanc and the shore will fracture. By the middle of April the entire area will be open water.
4. Saginaw Bay – The remaining thick and medium lake ice will melt during the first week of April.
5. The eastern shore of Lake Huron – The band of ice will continue to narrow and melt. By the middle of the month, mostly open water conditions will prevail.
6. Georgian Bay – Ice in the eastern portion of the Bay will melt during the first week of April. During the second week of April all the consolidated ice along the northeastern shore will be fracture. Open water to ice free will prevail elsewhere in Georgian Bay by mid-April.
7. Elsewhere in Lake Huron – Open water to ice free.

Forecast ice conditions from April 16th to April 30th.

Temperatures will be above normal for the entire area.

1. North Channel – The rest of the channel will fracture during the third week of April with some open water developing in the west central portion of the channel. By the end of the month mainly open water conditions will prevail except for some strips of rotten thick lake ice in the eastern and western section of the channel.
2. St Mary's River – Mainly open water conditions will develop during the third week of April.
3. Georgian Bay – Mainly Open water by the end of the third week of April.
4. Elsewhere in Lake Huron and Georgian Bay – Open water to ice free.

Lake Erie and Lake St. Clair

Near to above normal temperature were observed over the region during the last two weeks of March. Break up is 4 to 7 days later than normal.

Forecast ice conditions from April 5th to April 15th.

Temperatures will be near to below normal over the period.

1. Eastern Lake Erie – The ice edge will continue to progress eastward so that by the end of first week, the edge will be located 20 miles east of Long Point. By the middle of April, only a few patches of thick first year ice will be left in the extreme eastern portion of the lake.
2. The rest of Lake Erie, Western Basin, Lake St. Clair – Ice free.

Forecast ice conditions from April 16th to April 30th.

Temperatures will be slightly above normal for the first two weeks of April.

1. Eastern Lake Erie – Will become open water early in the third week of April.
2. The rest of Lake Erie, Western Basin and Lake St Clair – Ice free.

Lake Ontario

Temperatures were above normal over the lake during the past two weeks. The ice extent was near normal for this time of the year.

Forecast ice conditions from April 5th to April 15th.

Temperatures will be near to below normal during the period.

1. Northeastern Lake Ontario – A few patches of rotten thick lake ice will linger in the area by the end of the month.
2. Bay of Quinte - The consolidated ice in the bay will fracture shortly with some open water areas developing. By the middle of April, mostly open water will prevail except for a few patches of rotten thick lake ice.
3. St Lawrence River – Mostly open water will develop during the first week of April.
4. Elsewhere in Lake Ontario – Ice free.

Forecast ice conditions from April 16th to April 30th.

Temperatures will be near to slightly above normal for the first half of April.

1. Bay of Quinte – Open water.
2. Elsewhere in Lake Ontario – Ice free.

Lake Michigan

Above normal temperature were observed over the first portion of March. Ice extent over the lake was near normal.

Forecast ice conditions from April 5th to April 15th.

Temperatures will be slightly above to above normal during the first two weeks of April.

1. Green Bay – The consolidated ice in Little and Big Bay de Noc will fracture from south to north during the period. By the middle of April, all the consolidated ice will be fractured with rotten open drift to close pack thick lake ice. Concentrations will decrease in the rest of Green Bay so that by mid month mainly open water conditions will prevail.
2. Northeastern Lake Michigan – The consolidated ice in the approaches to the Straits of Mackinac will fracture during the first week of April. The ice edge will continue to retreat eastward. By mid-April, mostly open water except for a few isolated patches of rotten thick lake ice near the Straits of Mackinac will remain.
3. Elsewhere in Lake Michigan – Mostly Ice free.

Forecast ice conditions from April 16th to April 30th.

Temperatures will be near normal over the area.

1. Green Bay –By the end of the third week of April, all of the bay area will be open water to ice free.
2. Northern Lake Michigan – Open water.
3. Elsewhere in Lake Michigan – Ice free.

Note: Changes have been implemented for the thirty day forecast to provide a product that will hopefully be easier to use. Please forward your comments to cis-scq.clients@ec.gc.ca.

Figure 1: Ice forecast, Western Great Lakes - 15 April 2004

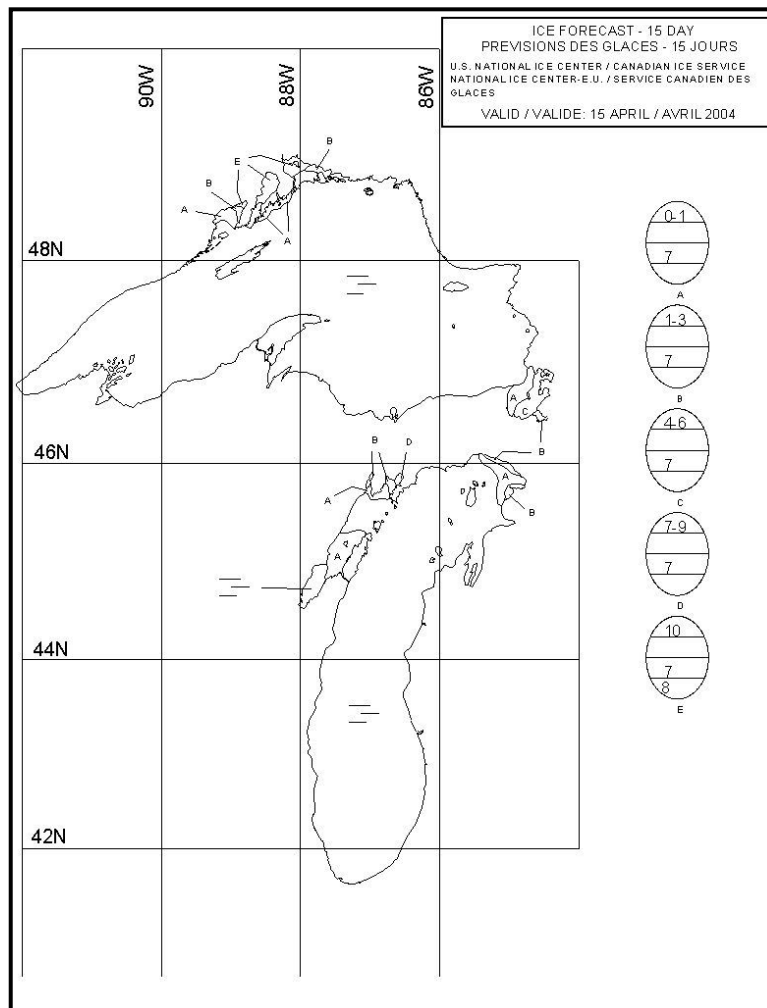


Figure 2: Ice forecast, Western Great Lakes – 1 May 2004

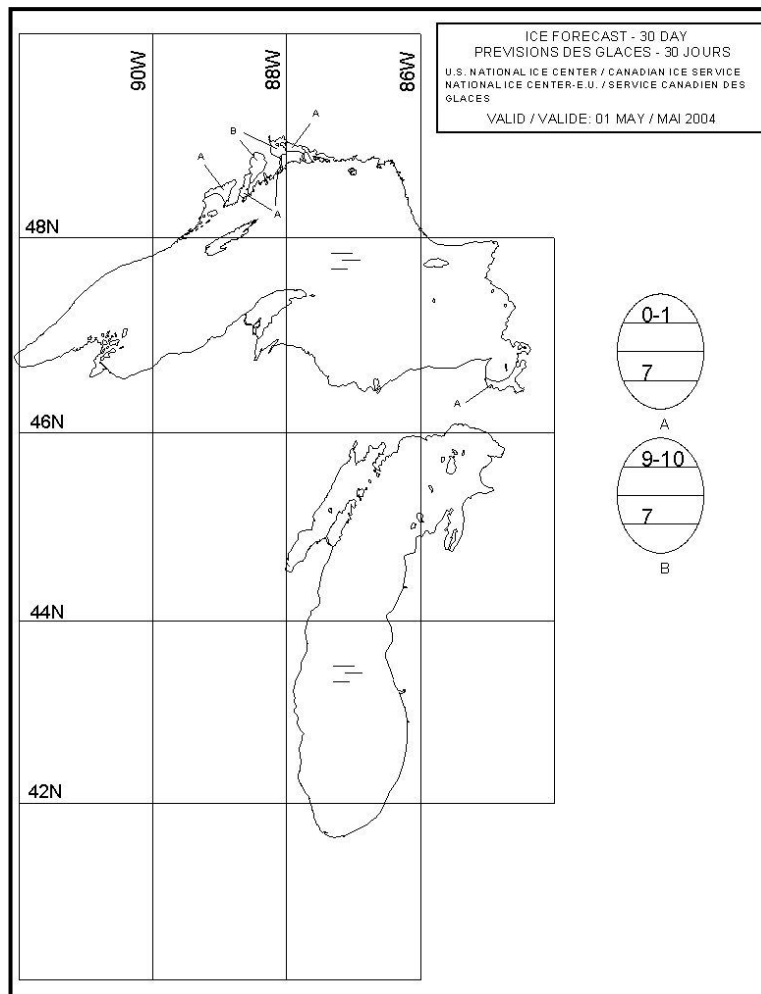


Figure 3: Ice forecast, Eastern Great Lakes - 15 April 2004

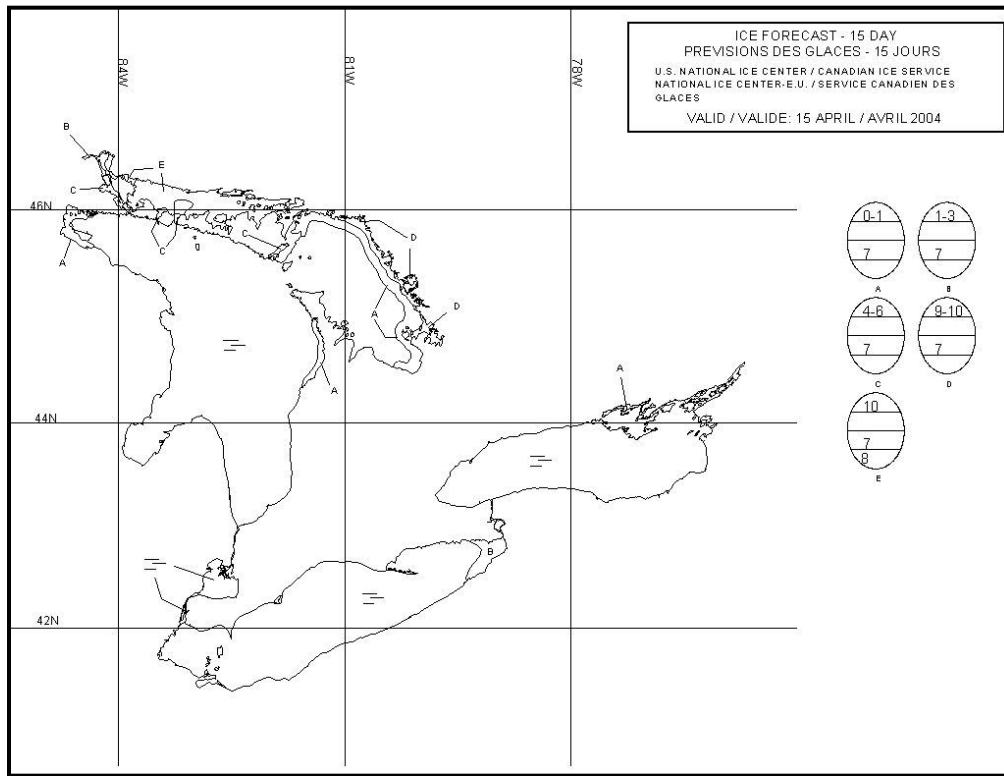
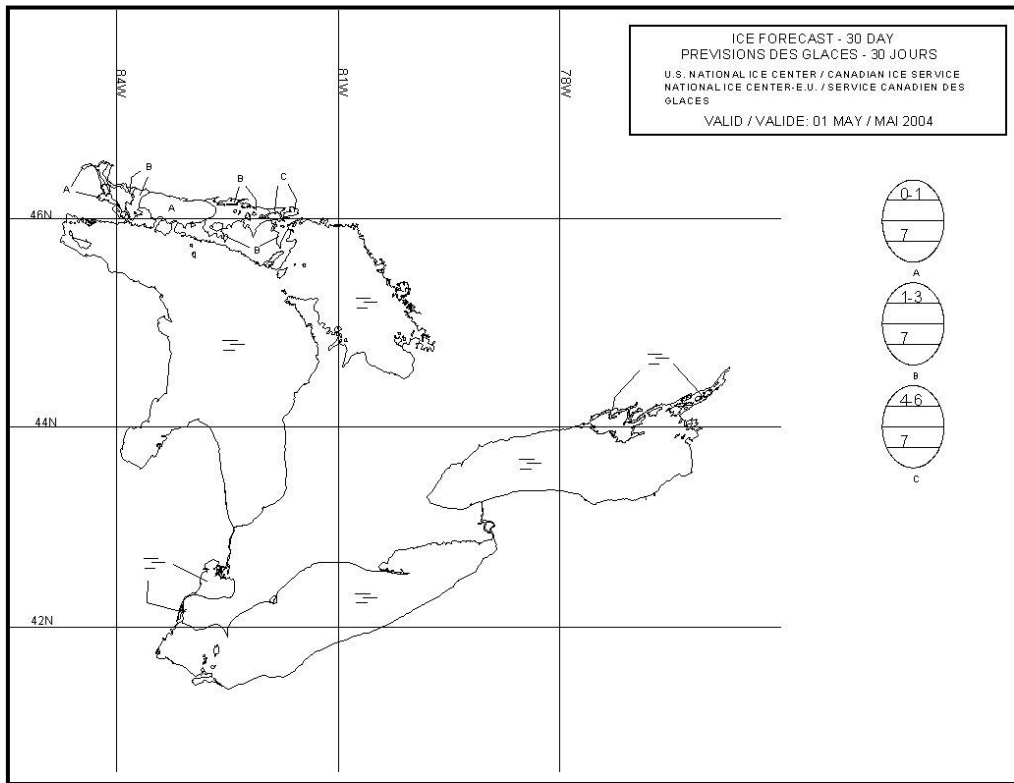


Figure 4: Ice forecast, Eastern Great Lakes – 1 May 2004



THE NEXT 30 DAY FORECAST WILL BE ISSUED ON 16 APRIL 2004.
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